

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEA-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01

STR-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 IO-13 RSR-01 /165 W

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R 161715Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2079

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, POV, WB, GE

SUBJECT: OIL PIPELINE

REF: A. BERLIN 1095

B. BERLIN 951

C. BONN 9490

1. SUMMARY: SENAT OFFICIAL PROVIDED RESPONSE TO GDR OFFER OF NEGOTIATIONS ON OIL PIPELINE TO GDR REP MITDANK JULY 12. LATTER INDICATED GDR WOULD NOT ACCEPT SENAT TERMINOLOGY FOR INTERZONAL TRADE (IZT) OFFICE AND WAS UNHAPPY THAT SENAT WAS NOT PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. MITDANK ASSERTED GDR WOULD STICK BY ITS PROPOSAL AND WAS IN NO HURRY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL HINKEFUSS (DUPUTY TO KUNZE) HANDED MITDANK AGREED RESPONSE TO GDR OFFER FOR OIL PIPELINE NEGOTIATION (REF A) JULY 12 WITHOUT HEADING, CONFIDENTIAL

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LETTERHEAD OR SIGNATURE; HINKEFUSS DECLINED INVITATION

TO MAKE ELABORATING STATEMENT, MITDANK READ NOTE ALOUD, LEAVING OUT WORD "INTERZONENHANDEL" IN TITLE OF IZT OFFICE AND NOTED THAT SENAT DID NOT PICK UP GDR SUGGESTION FOR DIRECT SENAT-GDR TALKS. HE SAID THAT RESPONSE APPEARED LESS FORTHCOMING THAN EXPECTED FROM ADVANCE REPORTS, AND THAT GDR WOULD LET SENAT KNOW ITS POSITION, BUT IMPLIED THAT IT WAS IN NO HURRY. IN CLOSING, MITDANK QUIPPED THAT HE WAS UNACQUAINTED WITH WORD "INTERZONENHANDEL," AND WOULD HAVE TO HAVE IT TRANSLATED.

3. MITDANK'S DISAPPOINTMENT CAN PERHAPS BE TRACED TO ADVANCE REPORTS IN WEST BERLIN PAPERS MORNING OF JULY 12 TO EFFECT THAT FRG AND ALLIES HAD EMPOWERED SENAT TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR ON CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINE. SENAT RELEASE, WHICH DID NOT APPEAR UNTIL AFTER SENAT RESPONSE DELIVERED, MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHILE SENAT WAS PREPARED TO SEE TO IT THAT NECESSARY PRE-CONDITIONS WERE CREATED, IZT OFFICE WOULD SUPERVISE NEGOTIATIONS, TECHNICAL DETAILS OF WHICH WOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR MOST PART BY BUSINESS INTERESTS CONCERNED. "TAGESSPIEGEL" NOTED THAT QUESTION OF LAYING OF PIPELINE AT BORDER WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED AT POLITICAL LEVEL.

4. COMMENT: MITDANK'S REACTION TO SENAT RESPONSE INDICATES THAT GDR MAY BE PREPARED TO "PLAY IT COOL" IN HOPE THAT SENAT WILL TAKE MORE FORTHCOMING POSITION RATHER THAN ALLOW DELAY FOR PROJECT WHICH HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION. ON OTHER HAND, IT IS NOT CLEAR EXTENT TO WHICH GDR WILL OBJECT TO IZT OFFICE ROLE AS SUCH, AS OPPOSED TO NOMENCLATURE.BORG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN01206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BORG
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730732/aaaaaxot.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A. BERLIN 1095
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <15 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OIL PIPELINE
TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, WB, GC
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005